

Patent Claims

1. Control device of at least one protective means for rollover protection for occupants of a motor vehicle, characterized in that the control device is provided with at least one rotational acceleration sensor for detecting a rotational acceleration about the longitudinal axis of the vehicle and at least one analyzer device for analyzing the detected rotational acceleration (angular acceleration), and a control signal for the protective means for rollover protection of the occupants, said signal depending on the detected rotational acceleration, is output by the analyzer device.
2. Control device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the control device has no rolling rate sensor for detecting the rotational movement about the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.
3. Control device according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the control device has no inclination sensor for detecting inclination of the vehicle about the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.
4. Control device according to any one of Claims 1 through 3, characterized in that the rotational acceleration sensor is an optical, capacitive or inductive sensor, preferably a silicon micromechanical sensor.
5. Control device according to any one of Claims 1 through 4, characterized in that the rotational acceleration sensor is a passive sensor designed as a micromechanical sensor unit.

6. Control device according to any one of Claims 1 through 5, characterized in that the protective means has at least one occupant restraint means, in particular at least one side airbag and optionally an activatable rollover protection means such as retractable or foldout rollover bars or head supports.
7. Control device according to any one of Claims 1 through 6, characterized in that the control device has two (redundant) rotational acceleration sensors.
8. Restraint system for protecting occupants of a vehicle characterized in that the restraint system has at least one side airbag and one control device according to any one of Claims 1 through 7 by means of which control device the side airbag is deployed.
9. Method for deploying a protective means for rollover protection of occupants for a motor vehicle, characterized in that a rotational acceleration (angular acceleration) about the longitudinal axis of the vehicle is detected by at least one rotational acceleration sensor; the detected rotational acceleration or quantity derived therefrom is compared with a preselected or determined limit value, in particular a rotational acceleration limit value, and the protective means is deployed when the detected rotational acceleration or the quantity derived therefrom exceeds the limit value.
10. Method according to Claim 9, characterized in that a first and a second rotational acceleration (angular acceleration) are detected; the two rotational accelerations detected or quantities derived therefrom are compared with one another and depending on the result of the comparison, a

plausibility check of the signals of the two rotational acceleration sensors is performed.